

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Bechtold et al.
Title: BATTERY HAVING SEALED CONTACT TERMINAL BUSHING
Appl. No.: 10/560,376
International Filing Date: 04/14/2004
371(c) Date: 12/12/2005
Examiner: Steven M. Scully
Art Unit: 1795
Confirmation No.: 9083

COMMENT ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On pages 2-3 of the Notice of Allowance paperwork, the Examiner provided an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

The closest prior art of record is Ovshinsky et al. (US5,558,950) in view of Schäfer (GB2,026,761) and TWI World Centre for Materials Joining Technology, "Laser Welding of Plastics (August 2000). However, none of the prior art of record disclose or suggest the limitation as required by independent claim 1 wherein a plastic sealing element is provided on the contact element, the sealing element comprising a supporting surface which lies flat against the housing wall at an interface and a second surface extending at substantially a right angle to the supporting surface; the supporting surface and the second surface of the sealing element in contact with the housing wall such that there is no open space between the sealing element and the housing wall, or the limitation as required by independent claim 20 wherein a plastic sealing element is coupled to the contact element, the sealing element provided in the

at least one aperture of the housing wall such that there is no open space between the sealing element and the aperture of the housing wall, the sealing element comprising a supporting surface which lies flat against the housing wall at an interface and an adjacent surface extending at substantially a right angle to the supporting surface.

While the Applicants agree that the allowed claims recite a combination of subject matter that is patentable over the cited references, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with or acquiesce in the statement of reasons for allowance given by the Examiner. Moreover, the Applicants note that the recited subject matter as well as various other subject matter and/or combinations of subject matter may be patentable for other reasons than those given by the Examiner. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to set forth additional and/or alternative reasons for patentability and/or allowance with the present Application or in any other future proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22, 2010

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